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THE NORTH LAWNDALÉ COMMUNITY NEWS

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Serving North Lawndale, East & West Garfield, Austin, Pilsen, Humbolt Park, Near Westside & South Lawndale

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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Excessive Force Lingers over Two Police Related Deaths Causing Protest, Outrage and Unanswered Questions



18 Year-old teen Aaron Harrison



The recent shooting death of 18 year old Aaron Harrison elevated, even more, the city's battle with embittered residents over Chicago police violence against city residents. Aaron Harrison was pronounced dead after being shot in the back, confirmed by the autopsy report, by a Chicago police officer on Monday night.

On Saturday, July 21st, Lester "Roni" Spruill, just two weeks before his 44th birthday, was found dead in his 11th district police station cell after being arrested and taken there on Friday. Residents state that Spruill was beaten by the police and carried out of his basement apartment unconscious. Spruill's body was

taken for a second autopsy after his funeral when a judge was not satisfied with the first autopsy report, according to Pastor Marva Henry, Spruill's aunt by marriage. Pastor Henry, also stated that Spruill always wanted to help. Spruill worked at Harris Brother's Furniture was a father of .

Both the Harrsion and Spruill incidents happened in locations within blocks of each other where residents have strong ties or know each other well. This along with the outrage of the families and coupled with ministers that are relatives sparked community actions which included rock and bottles being

See Shootings page 13

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS FOR PAYING COSTUMERS

James Glover

Rona Lewis is tired of her living conditions. From the leaky basement and floods under the back stairs, to the cracks in her ceiling that create a roach problem, Ms. Lewis, and several other residents living in buildings alongside Douglas Blvd., are continually frustrated with management companies and their negligence in regards to proper building codes.

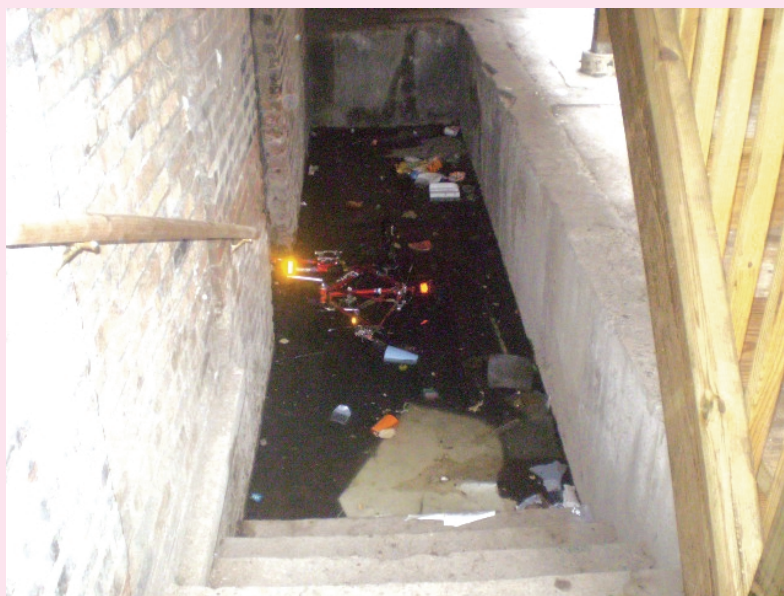
"This doesn't make any kind of sense for someone to live in such poor conditions without any sense that help is coming and that these people are going to get it together," said Lewis, a four year resident of her building, which is now owned by Holsten Management. "I've called and been promised a lot but I have yet to receive service and when I do,

the job is almost certainly half done."

The buildings were once owned by Cecil Butler and his management company, but were taken away after one of Butler's buildings collapsed due to poor building maintenance and structure. The city then took the buildings and sold them off to other management companies. Instead of the improvements many residents expected when informed of new management, the living conditions have gotten worse.

Such building violations include broken and open mailboxes, holes in ceilings where bugs manifest, leaks above the bathroom and missing parts of floors, which enable tenants to see downstairs into neighbors homes. Locks have also been said to be out of order,

See Slum page 8



Stairway that leads to flooded basement under the apartment of Rona Lewis located at 3658 W. Douglas Blvd. Apt-1B. She has lived in the apartment since December, 2003. The unit building has been managed by Holsten Management since January 2005..

Ribbon Cut at the New McCormick Place West

Megan Sieberg

On Thursday, August 2, the New McCormick Place West had its Grand Opening, hosting over 500 people in a ribbon-cutting ceremony executed by Chicago's Mayor, Richard Daley. Daley was joined by CEO, Juan Ochoa, of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA.) and Board Chairman, Ted Tetzlaff. They shared the podium with Jack Lavin, Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Tim Roby, President of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau (CCTB).

McCormick Place West is the latest addition to the largest convention center in the United States. Construction was completed

seven months ahead of schedule and on budget.

"The new state-of-the-art facility is an important addition to what is already the world's most advanced convention, trade show and meetings facility-and will serve to enhance Chicago's competitive edge," said Ochoa. "It sends a clear message to our industry that the biggest and best just got bigger and better."

As one of the largest cities in North America, Chicago is a prime location for national and international conventions. The city is also a hot-spot for tourism, attracting people from around the world to its vast array of shows and festivals. But according to a representative for Gov. Rod

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Mayor Richard Daley cutting the red ribbon at the Grand Opening of the New West McCormick Place

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**North Lawndale Community News
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2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award**

~~~~~  
**North Lawndale Community News  
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**Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &  
Residents of the 7th Congressional District**

## NLCN 2007 Focus People and Education

The primary focus for SHS/NLCN during 2007 will be People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN will focus on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

Acquiring a greater knowledge of each other through wisdom and a genuine feeling of caring for each other in our micro-local community areas and homes will improve the connection we should have between each other. Using our God given resources which are himself and each other will create an environment that will provide a climate of positive growth. Confidence in each other and assuming this responsibility will overcome our fear in valuing this vulnerable process because loving and caring about others does open us up to dissapointment. But the strong overcome fear and the dissapointments that may happen. We just have to be wise as change agents of the people divide. We must really care about each other.

Education with wisdom can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The West Side is changing, we have to make it in favor of everyone, equitably.

Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. NLCN will continue to provide news and information on issues and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus of our previous years. By becoming an educated wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life overcoming wisely, adversity.

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## THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

*The North Lawndale Community News* is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

Things That May Help Turn The Community Into A Better Learning Environment

Lavonte Roache

I believe that the community would be a better learning environment if we had more things like centers that we could go to after school. Our schools need more programs doing school hours and the school system should try to get more grants to raise money for more books and after school programs. They should have a survey to show the things that the students actually won't do. The more time that we spent in school the less time we have to be on the streets doing something wrong.

Parents should try to raise money all so, so that they can hold contests or other things like get together and make a place for the kids to do there home work and if your done with your home work you can get on the computer or play game of basket ball or for the girls that don't won't to play they can jump rope or do something else. The parents could have a talent night for the kids and the winners could get prizes form the money that the parents had raised and that would give them some where to be in stead of on the street making the community a better learning environment.

Another thing that would probably help the community become a better learning environment is that if the jobs in that community would hire more young people just give us a chance to prove our self given that chance we could work just as hard as anyone else. Its a lot of young people out there that won't jobs but can't get them because of there age so they go looking for something that they can do and most time that the wrong thing making the community worse.

Somebody could sponsor a club for kids to do different activities on different night. One night we could have a skate night and on the others nights we could do other things like have a party or watch a movie. That would really help the community become a better learning environment and keep a lot of kids stay off the streets. If we were given more things to do we would have less time on our hands to do the wrong things. It doesn't take much to help the community become better event the little thing help to.

Now if somebody builds a movie theater or mail in our environment that would solve our entire problem. We would have a major job supple and we would have some where to go in our spear time. Things that we would learn would be at a way hire volume then anything then some of us has ever seen. One of those to thing would be the answer to our prayers and would help turn the community around in a whole different direction. If you give the community a little it would gave you a whole lot back in return whale wreath the investment if you ask me.

*Lavonte' Roache' is a resident on the West Side. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

CITY TREASURER'S SMALL BUSINESS EXPOS

Mary Moran

The Chicago City Treasurer's 6<sup>th</sup> annual small business expo took place Aug. 3, 2007, at McCormick Place. The expo which was free to its attendees was designed to provide assistance to small business owners and those that would like to become one. The expo itself brought in local government, lending institutions, and technical advisors together to provide information and direction that is vital to the success of a small business.

Existing and prospective business owners were able to attend workshops, network with other business professionals, and obtain useful information from technical advisors and representatives of financial institutions.

In a July 3, 2007, media advisory, City Treasurer Stephanie D. Neely said, "helping small businesses thrive in Chicago is a top priority of my office. About 92 percent of businesses in Chicago are small businesses, and we are proud to give Chicago entrepreneurs an opportunity to network with hundreds of experts, and attend free workshops."

One of the exhibitors was Northern Trust Company which introduced financing your business game: A guideline for prospective business owners. The instructor guided them through a game plan into what financial institutions look for when giving loans to start up a business. The number one priority in starting any business is experience, whether it's in the industry or management of your preferred business. Everything is on a point system. If you stay in the plus you're given more points, but incidents such as bankruptcy and collections can hurt your personal credit. Perfect credit can give you 20 points while bankruptcy can minus you 30 points.

The city treasurer's office has developed some economic programs of its' own. One program is called: "linked deposit program." The objective of this program is to help the economic growth in Chicago's neighborhoods by encouraging financial institutions to make loans available to small businesses. The encouragement comes in the form of an agreement by the treasurer's office to deposit city funds into a bank on a matched basis. In return, the bank loans money to qualified small neighborhood businesses. The types of businesses that qualify for loans include small retail, industrial, export, and contracting firms.

Femi Fasanya from Washington Mutual, **See Expo page 14**

Slum from front page



Back porch in adjacent unit to Rona Lewis apartment.



Hole in bathroom ceiling of resident Lewis' apartment. After a call by Lews, NLCN witnessed water leaking in same ceiling flooding the bathrom

endangering safety and doors missing or severely damaged..

Angela Stanton, who lives in the building with Ms. Lewis, said that the more calls made to the management company, the less things get accomplished. "It's almost as if we're being punished for wanting a decent living environment. Every time I call, I get a date set for repairs on for when the building will get better but no one ever comes for weeks or months at a time."

Rona Lewis adds that even the process of calling in to report problems can be a long and tiresome process. "There is always unnecessary attitudes to repeated calls but I am sure the people that answer the phones aren't living like this. It is easy to blow someone off when you don't have to come home to cracked walls, missing pieces of floor and leaking water pipes."

When the North Lawndale Community News contacted Holsten Management, a representative (who chose to remain anonymous) said, "We as a management company are responsible for many buildings, many people and, therefore, many complaints. We aim to please everyone who rents from our property but we do NOT neglect our tenants. Our buildings are all up to code according to the city, which we believe to be the final authority."

According to Ms. Lewis, when she contacted the city she was told that the buildings were in court. However, Henry Mirch, from the Department of Housing, said, "Even if a building is in court, that doesn't stop a management company from stepping in and giving tenants a decent place to live."

In the end, Ms. Lewis and other tenants within those buildings hope that exposure to the problems they face will force the companies to do better. "If something gets fixed, I'll be shocked but at the same time I am hoping for change."

At the deadline of this issue, NLCN drew the attention of Alderman Sharon Dixon toward Rona Lewis' living condition at an LCDC open house. Vice president Steve Johnson happened to be in the same location at the time. Ald. Dixon suggested we go visit Ms. Lewis' apartment together. Holstein management agreed. Humbly, Johnson agreed to correct the problems cited and requested by Ald Dixon. Johnson stated to NLCN that Rona Lewis' apartmented would be corrected by Friday of this issue. We will keep you updated as we all unite to help to improve life for each other.

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident who does freestyle writing for the NLCN. He is also involved in Non For Profit work and Community Organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

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# Tax Dollars Helping Poor Neighborhoods Rebuild

Wendell Hutson

The city of Chicago will often use tax incrementing financing (TIF) to help redevelop economically challenged communities with affordable housing and new businesses.

There are certain requirements that an area must first meet to be eligible for TIF assistance and that's where some neighborhoods loose out, according to community activists.

"Every Chicago community will not qualify for TIF dollars because of requirements it does not meet," said Reginald Pullman, a block club president in the Roseland community on the South Side. "We need jobs in this area to get our young, black men off the street corners hustling. TIF money can help make that happen."

Alderman Anthony Beale (9th), whose ward includes Roseland, did not return phone calls by press time.

Big corporations such as Quaker Oats,

Boeing Co. and ABN AMRO, parent of LaSalle Bank, have previously received TIF assistance from the city to build new Chicago offices and activists express outrage because they said this is nothing more than "corporate welfare."

Rene Balls, president of Residents for Change, a non-profit on the West Side, said companies earning millions each year are not in need of financial help to expand their business in Chicago.

"These companies can afford to pay for any expansion themselves but still seek tax dollars from the city, which Mayor Richard Daley always seem to give in to," adds Balls. "I wonder when these companies are going to generate job opportunities for Chicagoans because it seems like most of their employees do not live in poor Chicago neighborhoods where jobs are needed."

Jackie Heard, press secretary to the mayor, said the city has worked feverishly to

assist communities redevelop themselves. She pointed to the Bronzeville community on the South Side as an example of the city working with the community to improve the area.

But it's also important to point out how to be eligible to receive TIF.

To be eligible for State Supplemental Tax Increment Financing (State TIF), the redevelopment project must meet each of the following:

\*The redevelopment project area must be blighted

\*The redevelopment project area must also be located in: a state enterprise zone, a federal empowerment zone, an urban core area, or a central business district.

The blighted area must contain at least one building that is 50 years of age or older. The redevelopment project area, over the past 20 years, must have experienced a generally declining population or generally declining

property taxes.

Only municipalities such as cities or states can receive TIF money, which is tax-payer funded, and not organizations, associations or companies. However, a municipality has the flexibility to award projects with TIF assistance and can designate certain areas to be TIF Districts.

How the Program Works

When local tax increment financing leaves a gap for a redevelopment project, a municipality can apply for a portion of the new state tax revenues created by the project to be disbursed to cover the financing gap for eligible redevelopment costs on the project.

To be eligible for State TIF, the underlying local TIF must dedicate at least 50 percent of the amount of the new local sales tax revenue and 100 percent of the amount of the new real property tax revenue created by the

See TIF page 13

## Police Roundup

Ferman Mentrell Beckless

### Mom faces bond hearing

A Cicero woman was scheduled to undergo a bond hearing Aug. 3 after she was charged with leaving her two children in the car with the windows up while she was reportedly taking care of business at the Cook County Jail Aug. 2.

Police identified the woman as Tabisha Gonnigan, 36. She was charged with two counts of reckless conduct and endangering the life of a child after she was arrested during the lunch hour. Cook County sheriff's deputies on foot patrol spotted the children (ages 8 and 17 months) in the locked 1994 Ford Taurus with temperatures hovering near the 90-degree mark.

Paramedics rushed the unidentified children to nearby Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services were notified.

A spokesperson for the Cook County sheriff told reporters that signs warning parents that they face arrest if they leave their children behind are posted at the entrances to the courthouses. This comes after two similar incidents in south suburban courthouses in July.

Word of Gonnigan's bond was not available at NLCN press time Friday.

### Man shot dead

Area 4 Homicide investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting death of a 22-year-old man, who was discovered with a single gunshot wound to the head in the 1600 block of West 18th Street.

The discovery was made just after midnight Aug. 2, according to Chicago police. The victim was identified as Eddie Romero, address unknown. He was pronounced dead on the scene by the Cook County Medical Examiner's office.

### Drive-by shooting wounds 2

Two men, standing in the 1300 block of South Millard just after 1 a.m. Aug. 2, were wounded with gunmen in a tan, four-door vehicle opened on them.

One unidentified victim was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical Center where he was listed in critical condition. The second victim, who remained unidentified, was listed in stable condition at the same hospital.

Area 4 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive in the shooting.

### Man shot

An unidentified shooting victim in his 20s was shot and wounded on Aug. 2 while entering his vehicle in the 700 block of North Central Avenue.

The victim was rushed to a local hospital where he was being treated for multiple gunshot wounds, according to police. The victim and an unidentified witness, who was not wounded in the shooting, told Area 4 investigators a gunman approached from a gangway and fired a handgun before fleeing.

The unidentified gunman was still being sought for questioning as of late Aug. 3.

See Roundup page 15

★ 5TH DISTRICT ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER SENATOR RICKEY R HENDON PRESENTS ★



**SENATOR RICKEY R HENDON'S 6TH ANNUAL  
BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC**  
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# WHAT IT IZ IN THE BIZ

Marquita Ware



Beyonce during the filming of the commercial for AE

What It Iz!

Beyonce will be the new face American Express. Yeah she has landed a multi million dollar deal and it is scheduled to launch later this year. An American Express insider said that "she's a role model for so many young people. She has tremendous crossover appeal the same way Tiger does. She's an inspiration for lots of people. She's a great fit for American Express". Other celebrities who have been representatives for American Express are Ellen Degeneres, Tiger Woods, Serena Williams, Robert DeNiro and Kate Winslet.

Usher and his fiancé Tameka finally wed. They held a private ceremony in the office of Usher's lawyer August 3<sup>rd</sup>. "I exchanged vows with Tameka Foster in Atlanta on Friday and we are happily married," Usher told Usmagazine.com. No other details have been announced, but some reports suggest that **Jonetta Patton**, Usher's mom, was in attendance, but others says she wasn't.

The R Kelly trial is set to start September 17<sup>th</sup>, and word is the girl in the infamous sex tape is set to take the stand in Kells' defense. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, she will take the stand and say that she is not the girl in the tape. She will be turning 23 this September and was 14 in the tape. The prosecutors will have relatives, friends and parents to take the stand and testify that it is her.

Ving Rhames dogs may have mauled 40 year old Jacob Adams but the cause of death could have been a heart attack. Adams died of heart failure during the attack. But, whether the mauling or the heart attack caused him to die will have to be determined by the coroner. I'll keep you posted on the decision.

**Lil' Romeo**, who is now eighteen years old and son **Master P** has purchased the corporation Rap Snacks Inc (you know those potato chips with the rappers on them and taste horrible, my opinion only) for an undisclosed amount, acquiring the rights to the Rap Snack line of potato chips, dubbed the official snack of Hip Hop. When asked about his son's latest venture Master P told Allhiphop.com, "I think it's incredible. All my life I was looking to build a generation of wealth and to have your family understand that is great."

Ballerstatus.com reports that rapper **Chingy** has left Capital Records and inked a new deal with Def Jam. He will release his new album, Hate It Or Love It before the end of the year. Recently, Chingy had reunited with Ludacris' Disturbin' Tha Peace label, which he had defected from a few years ago. Chingy needs to make up his mind and stop being a cry baby.

www.concreteloo.com www.bet.com

If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to know about one of your friends and nem' I can tell you that too. JUST KIDDING. Also check out our weblog at www.nlc.org. You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/ anyone else you want to talk about.

Marquita Ware is the Production/Layout & Design Coordinator for the North Lawndale Community News.

## Anointed In Music: Christian Performing Arts Company

Mike Cook

The Whitney Young Academy high school Fine Arts Center is a facility many professional theatre companies would envy. At 1431 West Jackson Boulevard, the raised stage is seventy feet long and forty feet deep, with professional-level sound and lighting. It seats 650 people and, last Sunday, the Christian Performing Arts Company played to a full house.

"Anointed In Music" was performed Sunday evening, August 5. It was not a drama production with a plot and main characters. It resembled a Christian revival meeting; the kind which pitch a big, outdoor tent and move from city to town. Over a hundred performers were involved including guest troupes such as: Lights of Zion, Dancers of Life Giving Cathedral, Revelations of Praise, God's House of All Nations, God's Abundance and the ZOE

Steppers.

One of the various MC's stated that the performances were "not a show but a ministry, a holy work, whose purpose is to destroy the enemy in the name of Jesus." This theme was accomplished by way of recorded gospel music accompanying all of the dance companies. All of the singers and hip hop artists performed gospel themed material. Another MC stated that "this is not an evening of entertainment, but one of worship." It was a pageant which showcased a huge number of talented and committed youths.

The performers were mostly elementary, high school and college students. In addition to performing, they also worked as lighting, sound and stage technicians, and were mentored in the skills of directing, producing and marketing. The dance companies maintained the continuity of the production

and were a highlight of the evening.

Kristen Joy Greer is the founder and artistic director of the Christian Performing Arts Company. The master choreographer is Stefane Greer, assisted by Brittney Browder, Tacori Collins and Shakia Hassell. The guest choreographer is Amber Whitted and Erica Holder is the stage manager. The Christian Performing Arts Company's offices are at 4500 West Monroe Street; Chicago, IL 60624. To contact them call (773) 382-2467, e-mail them at aimcomp@sbcglobal.net or go to their website at www.aimcompany.org. Please inquire for information regarding future productions and workshops.

Mike Cook is a North Lawndale resident and NLCN's theatre critic. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.

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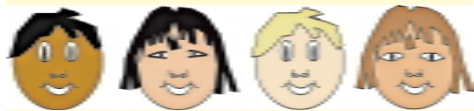
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## Congratulations COME PARTY WITH ME August Business of the Month



Heaven Storm, owner of Come Party With Me

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor "Come Party with Me," as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for August.

Thirty-four year old Heaven Storm is a quiet, soft-spoken young entrepreneur who has managed to parlay her professional skills as a pre-school teacher into a blossoming business for entertaining children.

"Come Party with Me," located at 4046 W. Grenshaw, is a home-based business that is steadily becoming a parent's best friend. This innovative ideal of entertaining children has replaced the exhausting task of keeping a child's attention on activities so they don't run around recklessly while mom, or dad, attempts to entertain adults.

"I like to entertain kids," said Storm. "I basically entertain the kids and keep them involved while the adults get to mingle and have fun with each other, and the kids get to have fun with their peers, not in a structured environment, but to have somebody to supervise what they are doing."

Storm's background as a teacher was a motivating factor in starting this line of business. Children flock about as she prepares the brightly colored bouncer and waits patiently for the bubbles to foam before hopping in. The cheers begin.

To read the full version of this article see the North Lawndale Community News August 1, 2007 issue.

# LAWDALE RESIDENT WINS \$34,000 LAWSUIT FOR CHICAGO POLICE MISCONDUCT



Larry Nelson with Blues Singer Bobby Rush

Larry Nelson, a Lawndale resident, Supervisor for the City of Chicago Department of Human Services, at the time of his arrest, and administrator for former 24th Ward, Alderman Michael Chandler agreed to a settlement in a lawsuit against five Chicago police officers for misconduct which occurred on November 6, 2005 at his apartment located at 4327 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Nelson stated that the five police officers from the special operations unit located at Fillmore and Homan ave. retrieved an unlicensed gun that Nelson stated belonged to his recently deceased mother-in-law.

How they actually retrieved the gun according to Nelson was entirely different to the charges trumped up by the officers. Nelson, who does have credentials to carry a weapon, said that while on his telephone, a police officer rung his doorbell and asked him was his name Larry Nelson.

The officer then asked Nelson could he

talk to him and came up to his apartment. Nelson stated, the officer then told him they were chasing a car like his. The officer then asked him did he have any weapons. Nelson said, "yes I have a gun on my dresser in the bedroom." Nelson said, the officer then told him, "my buddies are downstairs right now searching your car. You mind if I call them on the radio and let them know that I'm upstairs." Nelson then buzzed them upstairs to his apartment. The officers asked them could they check the weapon out, he said yes. The police officers then took him to the 10th district police station. Still not letting him know he was under arrested Nelson headed for his car and they told him to ride with them.

After arriving at the police station, Nelson found out that the officers had trumped up charges against him. The officers said that they pursued him in a car chase and after observing him do a hand to hand drug transaction.

**See Misconduct page 13**

## Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Scholarship Luncheon

Jasmine Q. Stuart

Congressman Danny K Davis, in cooperation with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Rush University Medical Center, held their 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Education Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, July 28 at the Rush University Medical Center. The elegant luncheon was held to recognize teachers and students who are striving towards success.

Fifteen teachers were acknowledged with one of four awards. Six teachers received the Outstanding Teacher Award, three received the Outstanding Para Professional Award, five received the Outstanding Administrator Award, and one received the Outstanding Community Activist Award.

There were a total of 45 students who received one of the three scholarships. Nineteen students received the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Spouses Education Scholarship, nine received the Hezekiah H.D. & Mazzie L. Davis Memorial Scholarship, and seventeen received the Wal-Mart Scholarship.

"We urge each [child] to take full advantage of the extraordinary opportunity they have been

offered interacting with these talented pedagogues," said Congressman Davis.

There's no doubt that Danny K. Davis is looking out for the best interest of the youth. He shows his support by giving youth hope. Congressman Davis is surely one of a kind. He does all that he can to support our financial needs. There are very few youth who can afford to go to college, but with the help of people like Danny K. Davis, going to college is possible. As long as we go to school and keep our grades up, someone will put forth an effort to ensure that our financial needs are met so that we can remain enrolled in school.

I had the honor of being awarded the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Spouses Education Scholarship. Not only did I need the scholarship, I am also very thankful for the support. I appreciate Congressman Davis and the Congressional Black Caucus



Pictured from left to right: Robert L. Stuart II, Jasmine Q. Stuart, Moshella M. Stuart, Congressman Danny K. Davis, Robert L. Stuart III, front and center Kimberly M. Stuart.

Foundation for awarding me this scholarship and I will do my best to show my appreciation this fall. The scholarship with which I was

**See Scholarship page 15**

## Lawndale Wolfpack Goes to Romania



On June 29 I had the privilege of going to Timisoara, Romania with the Wolfjack Basketball Team. The Wolfpack basketball team is a team of young men from the North Lawndale community. They are under the leadership of Mr. Charles Delaney. The trip was sponsored by Christ Church of Oakbrook and Lawndale Community Church. When I was approached to go along on this trip, I didn't hesitate to say "yes." The purpose of this trip was to present a basketball camp to the youth who lived in Timisoara. My job was to teach songs throughout the week. In addition of me teaching songs, I also had the



privilege of teaching and coaching basketball to the girls. I must admit that it felt pretty good to use some of my old skills. I thought that my basketball days were over, but God used what I had learned to teach others.

We had a chance to visit two homes for battered teenage girls. They were named Debora House 1 and 2. These homes were for young girls who have been abused in some way. We spent time with them and shared testimonies and sang songs.

The Wolfjack did a great job in teaching others how to play basketball. At the end of the week, the Wolfjack team played against



some of the older boys who were on the Romanian High School team. I don't need to tell you that they demolished them 94-34. All together there were about 75 youth who participated in the basketball camp. Our flight was cancelled on the way home however; the airline flew us to Vienna and put us up in a five star hotel until the next day. They fed us dinner and breakfast and then sent us back to Chicago first class. I had never flown first class! I couldn't believe the service that I received. The whole trip was great. I know that we left a great impact on the lives of the Timisoara community.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**August 18th Taste of North Lawndale**



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## Economic Development

## CURRENT STATE OF THE CTA STILL A MAJOR ISSUE

Demetrius Aaron Porter

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) currently lacks the adequate funds to properly provide services to its customers throughout the city. Especially in communities like North Lawndale, which “unfortunately is one of the poorest communities in Chicago,” said Mike Pitula, Community Organizer for Public Transportation for the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO).

Also, Mike Pitula concluded that North Lawndale is in the top 10 percent for communities below the poverty line out of the 77 communities that make up Chicago.

The economic status of neighboring communities like North Lawndale and Little Village can affect the quality of service provided by the city. The CTA bus and rail services already face economic problems, evidenced by the creation of the Pink Line,

which have hindered the commute of North Lawndale and Little Village residents to areas on Chicago’s North Side, where most of the good jobs are located.

On July 11, 2007 the CTA held its monthly board meeting to discuss solutions to such problems as the Pink Line, which has created travel problems for North Lawndale residents since it became a CTA project meant to improve the Douglas Blue Line.

At that time, the CTA faced a deficit of \$96 million and was threatening to raise fares for both bus and rail services throughout the city. The proposed fare hikes, which would be enforced during rush hour, would include a rise in the cost of a single ride on a bus from \$2 to \$2.75. One ride on the train would increase from \$2 to \$3.25.

If the CTA does not receive funding from an outside source, train service will be

reduced in areas like North Lawndale, resulting in the Skokie Swift and Purple Line being eliminated. The idea of cutting bus services in North Lawndale would still exist, further delaying a commuter’s trip to work or school that may be an hour away from their home.

Ron Huberman, CTA President, said recently that, “if we make no changes CTA bus service might see its totality.” That would be detrimental in areas like North Lawndale, where most of the residents do not have vehicles and depend on the services provided by the CTA.

If they do have a vehicle, gas prices in Chicago, according to [chicagogasprices.com](http://chicagogasprices.com), are the top in the nation.

The CTA deficit was raised from \$96 million to “\$110 million that needs to be cut

by this July,” said Harry Brooks, Transit Historian of the LVEJO. The future of the CTA economic status does not look good for commuters or employees. Prior to a June 13 board meeting, CTA had freed up \$12.5 million by eliminating 800 jobs and cutting 75 administrative positions with threats of more by August 8.

Due to the current conflict over adequate funding for the CTA to help trim its current budget “bus drivers have to pick their runs,” and “do split runs that are used on morning routes” because “Springfield is in a stalemate,” and “State legislatures have said nothing,” said Harry Brooke, over the current and the future state of the CTA.

*Demetrius A. Porter is a North Lawndale resident. He is a journalism student at Roosevelt University. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

## FUNDAMENTALS OF BUYING A HOME

K L Gillespie

Many people dream of owning a home and the decision to buy a home is one of the biggest financial decisions they will ever make. There are a number of steps involved in purchasing a home, so it pays to be prepared and to receive help along the way. Careful selection of the following professionals will help to ease your transition from renter to owner.

## Counselor

A homeownership counselor’s objective is to educate potential buyers on the home buying process. Issues discussed include finding a home, credit repair, qualifying for a loan, obtaining financing, understanding closing documents, and maintaining a home. First time home buyers are encouraged to receive counseling prior to making a purchase. This will ensure that they not only know the steps, but that they have enough education in order to make informed buyer decisions. A majority of classes are free and offered throughout the year.

## Lender

A loan officer will help you determine how much of a loan you qualify for. This is

a crucial step in the homebuyer process because it will give you some idea of how much home you can afford. This will save you and your real estate agent time in your home search, and steer you away from properties that are out of your price range. In addition, having a pre-approval letter conveys to the seller and agent that you are a serious buyer willing and ready to make a purchase. Most lenders require two years of W-2’s and tax forms, your last two pay stubs, and three months of bank statements. Having these documents readily available will help expedite the application process. Finding a lender is not difficult, as there are banks, mortgage companies, and community lending associations all around. You may even decide to work with a lender in which you currently do business, especially if a positive business relationship has already been established.

## Real Estate Agent

Once you’ve been pre-approved, you can begin working with an agent. The key here is to find one you trust and feel comfortable working with. You will spend a lot of time with this person, so it’s important that they

are professional and have your best interest at hand. It’s also to your advantage if they are familiar with the city and neighborhood you’re considering so that they may offer advice on how much to offer for a home. Many people receive referrals from friends and family, but the Chicago Association of Realtors is also a great source for finding a realtor - [www.chicagorealtor.com](http://www.chicagorealtor.com).

## Attorney

An attorney is necessary to guide you through the contract and closing process. It’s best to have someone who is experienced and specializes in real estate transactions. Some services provided are contract review, title search, property survey, and closing support.

The fees vary, but the legal advice provided is worth the cost. In addition to referrals, you can find an attorney by visiting The Chicago Bar Association – [www.chicagobar.org](http://www.chicagobar.org).

## Home Inspector

Because we often overlook things, a home inspection is

necessary to reveal any dangers or problems associated with a home. A home inspector will check all the mechanics, including plumbing, electrical, gas, furnace, roof, and structure. Home inspection fees can cost in excess of \$200, depending on the type and size of the home. But having an inspection upfront can reveal costly repairs and save you a lot of money down the line.

*Katherine Gillespie is NLCN’s Financial Columnist. She is a North Lawndale resident and she has an MBA from the Illinois Institute of Technology. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcen.org](http://www.nlcen.org).*

## McCormick from front page

Blagojevich, more can be done.

“We need to attract more conventions. We need to attract them not only from the United States, but from around the world,” he said. “This expansion will add to our momentum. In today’s global economy, to be successful you need constant, tireless innovation.”

The lofty new addition to the South Side of Chicago is projected to bring more business, more tourism, and more jobs to the city. The functionality and flexibility of the structure are meant to accommodate a rapidly changing world. During his remarks, Mayor Daley made it clear that he is ready to be strong in the face of change.

“We’re not afraid to work with business. We’re not afraid to work with labor. We’re gonna make some tough decisions. But on behalf of a city that has to grow, you must make tough decisions. Be not afraid.”

The building is located on Indiana Ave., and encourages development in the surrounding areas such as Motor Row. CEO, Tim Roby, hopes to reel big business into the area through construction of hotels and various tourist attractions. He hopes increased tourism will get to the heart of the marketplace.

“It is obvious that the building is hitting a sweet spot in the marketplace,” said Roby. “The competition is fierce, but our competitors can’t touch us when it comes to the depth, diversity and dimension of the experience that we offer here in our great city.”

The atmosphere at the Grand Opening was light and optimistic. It is no doubt that Mayor Daley and his business cohorts have a vision for the city’s future. Timely construction of the massive New McCormick building stands as a symbol for the efficiency with which city officials hope to expand Chicago’s business district. Perhaps Daley expressed it best when he said, “This represents the ‘I will’ spirit of the city of Chicago!”

For more information call the McCormick Place at 312-791-7000 or send an email to [mcpengin@mpca.com](mailto:mcpengin@mpca.com)

*Megan Sieberg is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. She has a degree in Communication Studies and is currently the Communications Manager at the North Lawndale Community News.*

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## Aug 8 Black Facts



Matthew A. Henson

\* On this date in 1866, African-American explorer Matthew A. Henson was born. Henson was the first explorer to reach the North Pole in 1909.

\* On this date in 1805, the African Baptist Church, also known as the African Meeting House, was founded in Boston MA. The African Baptist Church is the oldest independent Black church in the United States..

\* On this date in 1885, African-American inventor William C. Carter patented the umbrella stand.

\* On this date in 1907, saxophonist Benny Carter was born in New York City.

\* On this date in 1796, the Boston African Society was established with 44 members. The first African-American organization founded in the United States.



## Sports &amp; Entertainment

## TALKING WITH WHODINI

Todd Thomas

Old school music was the main attraction at the Ebony Black Family Reunion Tour in Washington Park this past weekend. The performers didn't disappoint the musically savvy audience who partied well into the night, despite steady rainfall.

Hip Hop pioneers, Whodini and Doug E. Fresh, were on the bill, along with MC Light and the soulful divas of Klyymax.

All the groups achieved success in the 1980's, but the passage of time hasn't decreased the power of the music and the eloquent messages that were at the core of black music of that era. Whodini was never labeled a "conscious" rap group in the vain of fellow New York rappers like KRS One or Public Enemy, but they still brought messages of self-determination and success for urban youth. They didn't achieve success by way of crime and violence, but by means of personal revelation and hard work.

Songs like "Last Night I Had a Long Talk with Myself" and "Escape" are cornerstones of Whodini's musical catalog in addition to party songs like "The Freaks Come Out at Night" and "Magic Wand." These songs were the epitome of hard funk, but they never used foul language or the dreadful "N Word" in their lyrics. Group member, Ecstasy, explains that they couldn't be vulgar and achieve success in the early stages of their careers.

"Our music was very popular overseas with "Magic Wand" but they were just playing the

instrumental version," Ecstasy says. Then we had to actually request and persuade them to play the lyrics, and we had to keep them clean. So that was something we had to do, but we never saw the need in using that type of language."

Doc Ice, an established rapper with UTFO, and the brother of Whodini member Jalil, performed with them in Washington Park. He had a lot to say about rap's staying power over the years and today's hip hop generation.

"It's like a teacher [Hip Hop Music]," says Ice. "And if the teacher teaches properly – he or she will stay relevant over time. But today there's a problem because the teachers are often just kids themselves who don't have the understanding to truly teach and reach others."

Teaching today's youth is an uphill battle, but Ice thinks there is one key thing to remember in relationships between adults and youth. "Parents and teachers need to understand that that their child will never – ever be wiser than you. He may be stronger or smarter, but not wiser," says Ice. He also stresses the need for a true appreciation of history and its role in developing a more balanced person – one who would be less prone to the violence that's occurring today.

"We have to keep our history flowing because without it we get what we got right now; Chickens with their heads cut off. They don't know who to kill because they think everybody's the enemy," says Ice.

Ice has had his share of problems and with violence in his home city of Brooklyn, but he



Jalil Doc Ice of Whodini

says that he's always tried to keep his head in confrontations with other people, even though he admits things can get heated.

"I live and walk around in the belly of the beast but I don't think a lot about shooting people," says Ice. "I've had my physical throwdowns because that's what you do coming up, but it never got to the point of popping off [shooting]. And I also always remember that the creator is looking."

But it's the music that makes people still relish concerts in 2007, just as they did in 1982.

Ecstasy says that if he had to choose a favorite song that Whodini made, he would choose "Escape" because it still gives him a rush to hear it. "I'd say *Escape* because of the things that were happening at the time in music and our careers, and because it just gives me chills," Ecstasy says. "The same chills and goose bumps I got when we created it over some 20 years ago."

*Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David H. Schultz



Martin Lawrence, Tim Allen, John Travolta and William H. Macy in Wild Hogs

**WILD HOGS (\*1/2)** A familiar yet strained comedy about a group of middle age guys (John Travolta, Tom Allen, Martin Lawrence and William H. Macy) out to rekindle their youth and spice up their mundane professional and private lives.

They decide on a cross country trek as "weekend warriors riding together as a fake motorcycle gang. But most of their comedic encounters we've seen before and done better in other films like "City Slickers". Only William H. Macy displays the right comedic exuberance as the geek with the female design cycle, along with TV's "Scrubs" John McGinley as the overtly gay patrol cop.

But the oddest casting choice is Ray Liotta as the offended leader of a real motorcycle gang who doesn't like "suburban wannabes". They chase after Travolta and company into a small New Mexico town during their chili festival celebration for a ridiculous "Magnificent Seven" type rip-off finale.

PG-13; 125min. Touchstone Pictures

Home Video; Available: Aug. 14

**VACANCY (\*\*)** Luke Wilson and Kate Beckinsale star in this minimal suspense thriller about an embittered married couple on a cross country drive who get lost off the main highway, hit something on the dirt road that leads to car trouble and winds them up staying overnight at an isolated, sleazy motel.

Where from their room, the couple realizes they are being stalked and tormented by a couple of back road hicks who want to be their next victim of the "snuff" "videos the couple realizes were filmed in the same room they occupied and now must somehow overcome this brutal threat in this cheap rip-off on "Saw" that uses the motel setup premise from Hitchcock's "Psycho" that comes off less than a cheap thrill to watch.

R; 87min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Aug. 14

**THE LOOKOUT (\*\*\*)** Chris Pratt (Joseph Gordon Levitt) is a man trying to get back to normal. Even though he's under

See Video page 13

## PERSPECTIVE: R. Kelly is Far from Hero Status

Real black heroes come few and far between.

During my lifetime, I've seen very few. Still, there are enough of them both living and dead, for me to find adequate heroes for my children, grandchildren and me.

I'll never forget when Cassius Clay, a former world heavyweight boxing champion, took a stand against the war in Viet Nam by declaring himself a conscientious objector to the war and draft. Though I was just a teenager, the only real thing I understood about Clay was that he was at that time the greatest boxer in the world. He was also the most popular black person in the world, though baseball Hall of Fame Hank Aaron and Willie Mays were in their prime as baseball players.

While a student at Wendell Phillips High School and the son of a former U.S. Army Sergeant, my intent was to eventually enroll in the military upon completion of high school. I later learned and fully understood exactly what Clay stood for and why.

He later changed his name to Muhammad Ali and the rest of the story is well known.

In 1970, I refused to register for the draft, as required by law, forcing the military to classify me as 1H. A 1H classification meant I was not completely processed for the draft. Clay became a hero in my eyes because of this stance. His stance opened a lot of people's eyes who were unaware of what was available to them in terms of the draft.

R. Kelly a.k.a. Robert Kelly, has unfortunately become a hero to millions of young people who are quick to say "they" are out to bring down all of our black heroes." But I beg to differ with such small-minded individuals.

It was just over five years ago when every street vendor selling bootleg videos had multiple copies of one featuring R. Kelly. Out of curiosity, I purchased the video only to find out it was allegedly Kelly engaged in sex with an apparently under-aged girl.

When Chicago police and Cook County prosecutors got a hold of the video, he was

charged with what amounts to statutory rape. That's when the battle cry began.

"They set him up," said some, who do not trust the police in this big city. "They're trying to jail all our heroes," said others, who mentioned the name of Mike Tyson and others, who had been tried and convicted on various criminal charges.

I'd like to know just who allegedly set him up. Was it Kelly himself, who was seen on the video adjusting the camera to get a better view of the activity? Or was it someone in his entourage, who jumped at the opportunity to make a buck once they saw the video. Or finally, was it someone who had a bone to pick with Kelly because he couldn't bribe Kelly for the money requested to destroy the video?

My personal theory is that Kelly set things up himself. He did it by making the video in the first place. Has anyone thought of that?

Once charged, Kelly declared it wasn't him. He also said that it was his brother on the video.

Though my brother and I don't necessarily have the best sibling relationship, neither my brother nor me would publicly state who was on the tape before a judge and prosecutors.

Is that what you call a hero?

Don't forget the circumstantial evidence that's out there for all to see. Kelly was once married to Aliyah, the late singer who lost her life in a plane crash. It is true that she was only 15-years old when they wed, though the marriage was eventually annulled. But don't tell me that Kelly never consummated the marriage.

One of my daughters attended the same high school (Kenwood Academy on the South Side) that Kelly attended. She had the privilege of meeting Kelly on numerous occasions while Kelly was allegedly scouting his prey at the school. No man that can't read has any business teaching high school students.

Though the two aforementioned incidents are just circumstantial, it points to a man fully capable of committing such acts. And the Lord

See Kells page 14



# AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



Charlie Cox and Sienna Miller in *Stardust*

glory of her youth. Together, Tristan and Yvaine share perilous adventures in the quest for Tristan to return in time with Victoria’s “gift” to marry his “one true love”. But through the course of this film’s escapades, Tristan begins to grow as a person from that wimpy guy too nervous to speak to the “girl of his dreams” from her window and unable to



Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Paul Rae in *Daddy Day Camp*

a chuckle out of mostly bodily malfunction humor. Along with an implausible script that turns into a rather weak intimation of Bill Murray’s 1979 film, “Meatballs”.

Charlie Hilton (Gooding) has a childhood score to settle as an adult. In his youth, he fumbled and lost a

**STARDUST (\*\*\*)** Over a century and a half ago, a young man manages to outfox a guard in charge of keeping intruders from slipping through their only opening of the wall that divides England from a magical kingdom, Stormhold. Where he meets a chained princess who’s a slave for an old merchant woman. A year later the man receives a delivery of an infant to his England cottage home.

The child grows into an 18 year-old Tristan Thorn (Charlie Cox) who has his heart set on “one true love,” Victoria (Sienna Miller), already taken by her pompous swordsman suitor, Humphrey (Barry Cavill).

The necklace shoots into the heaven, where it becomes a shooting star descending back into Earth’s atmosphere that Tristan happens to wish on in Victoria’s presence.

The shining star also gets the attention of three aged witches, the elder, Lamia (Michelle Pfeiffer in a delightfully villainous role) in a race against time; plans to find the shooting star in its human form, take out its heart that would to restore the

defend himself against Humphrey.

The young man with a little help from an eccentric sky pirate, Captain Shakespeare (an off beat comedic turn from Robert DeNiro in an flamboyant role that is nothing like any character he’s played before) who happens to be Tristan’s cousin and who is a closet, dress wearing “gay blade” trying to maintain his “manly reputation with his crew.

But Shakespeare also trains Tristan into a polish swordsman who fights with the crew while protecting Yvaine and eventually in the final showdown between himself, Septimus against witch, Lamia; that Tristan’s one true love” was with him all along.

“Stardust” is served well as a fairy tale for adults that children and teen can enjoy. This medieval fantasy adventure could do for “Stardust”, what “Star Wars” did without the trilogy factor. British director Matthew Vaughn seems to play the action and character like one continuous checkmate chess game that keep the story on par with the characters and their “connections”.

The film is set on an intricate story and characters woven in a coherent matter that

neatly tags the film together. While retaining a spark of irreverent humor that provides some naturally amusing moments. “Stardust” emerges as a refreshing departure from the usual dog days of summer movie fare that has spirit and a crafty script that entertains brightly

PG; 130 min. A Paramount Pictures Release – presented at selected theaters

**DADDY DAY CAMP (\*1/2)** It would be an obvious choice that if a movie sequel would be made from 2004’s “Daddy Day Care”; that the action would shift from indoors to the great outdoors.

Eddie Murphy and Jeff Garlin are missing in action this time around, now replaced in their characters for this sequel by the cartoonish energy of Cuba Gooding Jr. and husky and tall Paul Rae trying to be a John Goodman clone as this salt and pepper buddies and business partners who operate their at-home Day Care service. (But what happened to the storefront building Murphy and Garlin acquired in the finale of the original version?)

“Daddy Day Camp” is a tired and familiar comedy strictly for juvenile taste that still gets

relay race at Camp Driftwood against a rival rich kid, Lance Warren (Lochlyn Munro) whose parents later bought the rival, rundown Camp Canola that is now popular and profitable over the dilapidated and bankrupt Camp Driftwood.

There are moments to laugh at, but it’s out of silliness and familiarity to what we’ve seen other films have done before and better. But what is also sad about this movie; is that this marks the directorial debut of former “Wonder Years” kid actor and Chicago-born, Fred Savage whose experience and knowledge from his Midwesterner roots and his TV career should have served him better here.

But instead, his efforts don’t seem to matter much in salvaging the kind of mindless movie that usually exemplifies the late season “dog days” of summer movies fare that this movie represents.

PG; 89min. A Tri Star Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

*David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## Unemployment Continues to Rise in Chicago

Wendell Hutson

Sean Johnson worked 15 years for Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago as an x-ray technician and thought he had finally found the perfect career. But on June 3 he received a 30-day notice telling him he is being laid off effective July 2 and for the first time he must rely on unemployment benefits to support his family.

Johnson is not alone when it comes to the number of laid off employees who flocked to local unemployment offices seeking help finding a new job and helping them pay their bills.

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), last month employers took 1,190 mass layoff actions, seasonally adjusted, as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits. Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single establishment; the number of workers involved totaled 119,089, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of mass layoff events decreased by 28 from April, and the number of associated initial claims fell by 5,644, according to IDES. During May, 363 layoffs were reported in the manufacturing sector, which resulted in 48,849 initial claims.

Compared to April, mass layoff activity in manufacturing decreased by 20 events, while initial claims increased by 5,076.

From January through May, the total number of events was higher than in January through May 2006.

The national unemployment rate was 4.5 percent in May, unchanged from the prior month and down slightly from 4.6 percent a year earlier. On the diary side, non-farm payroll employment increased by 157,000 over the month and by 1.9 million over the year.

Residents working or living in poor Chicago neighborhoods like North Lawndale and Austin on the West Side and Englewood

and Roseland on the South Side seem to make up a lot of the recent layoff claims, said Tores Roberto, an analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

“A lot of the faces we are seeing filing an initial unemployment claim these days are a minority or they live in an economically challenged community,” said Roberto. “And that’s not by accident I am sure. Many poor areas have small employers like fast-food restaurants and convenience stores and sometimes employees paid cash under the table, which makes it difficult to collect unemployment when you lose your job.”

He adds that illegal immigrants and blacks receiving government assisted checks are typically the ones willing to be paid this way to avoid taxes or other complications they deem important.

Tracey Walker, 39, worked three years at a Dollar Store in the South Loop up until February when she was laid off because of slow sales. When she went to file for unemployment benefits she was told by the local IDES office that she was not eligible because she hadn’t worked for the past three years.

“I thought it didn’t matter if you got paid in cash that you could still get unemployment if you worked somewhere like a store, which does pay taxes,” said Walker. “I filed two appeals but in the end because I was not able to prove I received income from the job I was denied benefits.”

She adds that her former employer lied when questioned by IDES as to if she ever worked for them. The store manager, which refused to identify herself, said she had no comment.

Industry Distribution

The ten industries reporting the highest numbers of layoff claims, accounted for 32 percent of the total, initial claims in May. The

industry with the highest number of initial claims was food service contractors with 5,236, followed by temporary help services with 5,080, and motion picture and video production with 3,470.

Together, these three industries accounted for 16 percent of all initial claims due to mass layoffs during the month.

The manufacturing sector accounted for 24 percent of all layoffs and 31 percent of all related initial claims filed in May; a year earlier, manufacturing made up 22 percent of events and 28 percent of initial claims. Last month manufacturing claimants was highest in transportation equipment manufacturing (10,321, largely light truck and utility vehicle manufacturing and heavy duty truck manufacturing), followed by food manufacturing (2,617) and wood product manufacturing (1,823).

Clerical

Administrative and waste services accounted for 13 percent of mass layoff and 11 percent of initial claims in May, primarily from temporary help services. Accommodation and food services comprised nine percent of events and ten percent of initial claims filed over the month, with the majority of layoffs in food service contracting. Nine percent of all layoffs and related initial claims filed were from retail trade, mainly from general merchandise stores. Construction made up ten percent of events and seven percent of initial claims, mostly from the specialty trade contractors industry.

The report on Mass Layoffs for June is scheduled to be released by IDES on Friday, July 20.

*Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

### TIF from page 6

project each year for which state TIF is sought.

An applicant may be approved to receive up to 50 percent of the net new state sales tax revenue (general revenue portion only, excluding dedicated taxes) generated in the project area or up to 50 percent of the increase in state income tax revenue from net new jobs in the project area. However, an applicant cannot receive both.

State TIF may be awarded for a period of up to 15 years (a longer period may be requested, but not to exceed 23 years).

#### Eligible Use of Funds

The TIF project funds may be derived from a bond issue (retired with the local and state incremental revenues), or a reimbursement to the developer for eligible costs.

Eligible redevelopment project costs include the following:

- \*Studies, surveys, plans and specifications
- \*Land acquisition, land preparation

- \*Rehabilitation, reconstruction or repair or remodeling of existing buildings and fixtures

- \*Construction of public works or public improvements

- \*Professional services such as architectural, engineering, legal, financial and planning

- \*Financing costs such as expenses of issuance of bonds

*Wendell Hutson is a Chicago-based freelance writer. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.com](http://www.nlcn.com)*



# Have Vision For Our Children

Wanda Muhammad

"Where there is no vision, [children] perish," the saying goes.

Imagine public schools, where the students learn without interference, where they are not intimidated, bullied nor threatened; public schools, where no one brings knives or guns. Their conversations are about learning their lessons, their school projects and their plans for the future. Imagine their smiling eager faces, discussing a new book they read or a field trip they took. No cursing words, nor loud boisterous voices are heard in the hall or on the bus. Imagine our pride in our children acting responsibly, and carrying themselves with respect and dignity. Imagine the pleasure of our ancestors seeing their progress.

The naysayers among us would doubt this

is possible. Yet, there are times in our history, where we as a people have changed our reality, have united to make 'impossible' changes in our history, such as end slavery and bring forth the Civil Rights movement and the integration of schools. These actions took a collective determination.

With all the progress and great advancements we blacks have made, can't we now make safe schools and play areas for our children? After the struggle to get them educated, must they study where their lives are in danger? Have we become apathetic and complacent about our children's lives? "It take a village." Are we all waiting on the rest of the village to do something? Or do we refuse to get involved because, 'they are not doing it right?' Is it okay that fewer of

our children are graduating? Have we lost hope?

We have role models that are our inspiration and proof of what can be done.

Remember Joe Clark from the movie, 'Lean on Me,' 'Dangerous Minds' and more recently 'The Ron Carter Story'? And the brother Oprah Winfrey kissed on her show because of his wonderful work with Harlem students? And the wonderful Los Angeles brothers Oprah featured, who inspire youth and many others?

Where do we begin? By being there for our children; by infusing them with love and respect for life and self and restoring their faith in their awesome future. Let us ask ourselves, how will God judge us if we do not rise to this challenge for the lives of our

children?

We need to muster all the faith we can to advance our children onto the vision of a bright future. We need to work together, challenge our civic leaders and push for legislations that ensure our children's safety by getting rid of guns and drugs in our neighborhoods and restoring job opportunities for them.

*Wanda Muhammad is the producer of Shaping Young Minds television show, currently taping a year long series to air on CANTV beginning in September 2007, Crime Destroys Lifetimes, for more information or to get involved call 773-567-6228 or Email symtvshow@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.*

## STATE BUDGET CRISIS CONCERN CPS OFFICIALS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

James Glover

As the state budget moves even closer on the verge of becoming a major crisis in Illinois, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) officials, teachers, concerned parents and students are wondering how it will affect CPS in regards to education, after school programs and school placement.

"With the Chicago Public Schools budget approaching yet the State being handicapped with a serious State budget problem, I seriously hope that all the proposed improvement of our school system wasn't just talk and that things are actually going to still get done," said Maria Villario, teacher at Little Village High School.

The proposed CPS budget, which was released Monday, has a directly linked property tax increase to the fact that the state has not fundamentally reformed education funding in Illinois. "Year after year, we are forced to raise property taxes because Springfield has yet not fundamentally reformed the way our schools are funded so that we can keep our system moving forward and give every student in every school the education they need and deserve," said CPS CEO Arne Duncan.

The Chicago Public Schools budget doesn't include the recent four million dollar grant given to Chicago Public Schools recently, so there is a general feeling that some new programs will be installed no matter what

happens with the state budget, however, Chicago Public Schools official Gerald Washington said that four million doesn't go as far when you're responsible for double that amount in school kids.

"We have millions of students that we're responsible for and we want to reach every single one of them, which is why we need adequate funding no matter if that's in the form of government grants or some much needed assistance from Springfield on a budget that includes enough funding to run this school system the way it ought to be ran, said Washington."

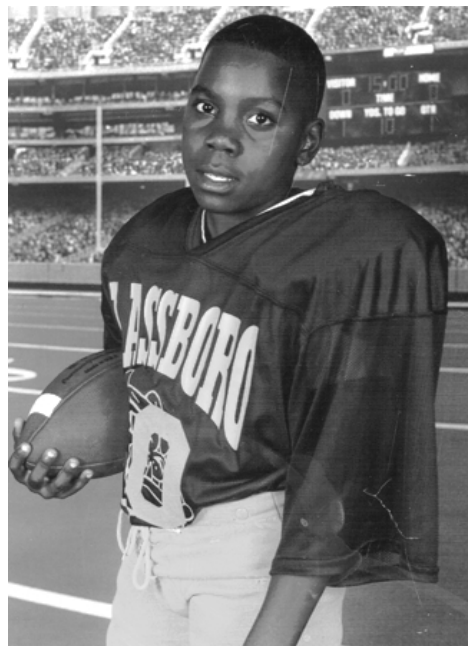
The overall CPS budget of \$4.9 billion is up by \$262 million, a 5.5 percent increase. This is largely due to higher salaries, pension cost and health care cost as well as debt cost that are due to new school construction.

CPS said that the school programs that are already in place are not in danger of going anywhere. "The real reason we can continue investing in proven strategies like after school programs and improving teacher quality is because of local taxpayers and our continuing commitment to cutting cost," said Duncan. "Still, the budget we just announced does not reflect all that we need to do to take our system to the next level; it only reflects what we can afford to do."

Chicago Public Schools students are

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## Shootings from front page



thrown at police cars and then led to a march on the 11<sup>th</sup> district police station. The next day, late morning after the Harrison shooting a memorial was setup at the shooting site by family members and friends. Right after a rally was held at the morgue and later a larger rally back on Mozart where the shooting occurred. Kenny Shannon was lead organizer for the rally.

The godmother of Aaron Harrison, Cheryl Hale, along with several members of her family and friends were on their 1<sup>st</sup> floor open back porch and had a direct view of the Harrison shooting incident as it was happening. Hale stated, "They are not telling the truth that boy did not have a gun." Hale and other members of her family said they saw Aaron Harrison as he was ran from the vacant lot on the south side of their building on Mozart across the alley into the vacant lot directly across the alley from their building he then quickly made a u-turn back across the alley and proceeded through the vacant lot on the north side of their building sitting between the two vacant lots. Stated Ms. Hale and collaborated by other family witnesses that Harrison laughed while being pursued then continued to run away from the officer toward Mozart Ave along the north side of their porch. The Hale family then stated that the police officer shot him in the back. They alleged the officer was mad he couldn't catch Harrison so he shot him. Harrison has been noted as a runner from the police. Also, he liked to dance. One resident, Franela McDaniel, 26, who was at the grocery store on the corner of Francisco and Roosevelt, when the incident began, she said that Harrison was dancing near them right before the police intervened. After crowd on the

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## Video from page 11

therapy for partial memory lapses; Chris is brain damaged from a horrible high school car accident that continues to haunt him in his adult life in a small Kansas town.

Where Chris works as a janitor at a small bank seeking the opportunity to move up as a bank teller. One day, Chris is befriended by Gary (Matthew Goode) and his two buddies who take advantage of Chris' frustration. They falsely build Chris' confidence in order to make him their lookout for a planned heist on the bank.

Until Chris receives notification from his boss on his chance to work as a teller; Chris is unable to back out of the arrangement and finds himself participating in the heist, in order to somehow to shift the power of having the money hidden away from the determined robbers.

An intricate and crafty yet humanly insightful heist drama from "Out of Sight" writer Scott Frank who makes an impressive directorial debut here.

R; 99min. Miramax Home Video: Available: Aug. 14

**GOD GREW TIRED OF US (\*\*\*)** In this cultural shock documentary, from the clash between religion and oil resources that

led into a civil war in Sudan. In which two million people loss their lives in 1983 and the order s came to kill all black male children. This led to many 5 yr old to 10 yr olds fleeing their native home and relatives without knowing their fate.

The United Nations got involved trying to avoid these "lost boys" from a genocidal fate if ever they returned to Sudan. Instead, The UN relocates some of them in America. This documentary shows their thoughts, discoveries and difficulties encountered; in their attempts to readjust without forsaking their heritage, beliefs and their refugee families they left behind, but never forgot. In the face of this adversity.

It 's an absorbing look on what is right and wrong with America, who can't seem to do good deed without perpetrating their ideology into the equation.


R; 90min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Aug. 14

**Coming Soon to Home Video:** Adam Sandler and Don Cheadle in "Reign over me" due our (Oct. 9)...Hostel, Part II due Oct 2; Tobey Maguire, Kristen Durst in "Spiderman 3" due out Oct. 30.

*David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.*

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Todd Thomas

The long and winding road to the hallowed all-time home run record is finally winding down for Barry Bonds. On August 4, against the San Diego Padres the slugger connected for his 755<sup>th</sup> career home run – tying him for first place with Hank Aaron. Bonds hit the 382-foot homer off of San Diego Pitcher Clay Hensley in the second inning with the bases empty and no outs. The San Diego fans, who had vigorously booed Bonds in his first at bat gave him a nice ovation and followed that up with a standing ovation when Bonds took his position in left field in the bottom of the inning. After circling the bases he kissed his wife and son and then received a round of congratulations from his teammates, although the game was never officially stopped. MLB commissioner Bud Selig was in attendance and said that he or a member of his staff would be present at the Giants’ next few games to see Bonds attempt to break the record. Bonds said that he was relieved to have finally reached the milestone and was humbled by his place in history next to Henry Aaron. He was very respectful of Aaron and said that he meant a lot to baseball, especially African American players. Of course Bonds is under heavy scrutiny because of his alleged use of steroids. Steroids such as the cream and the clear bulk you up and make you more powerful but they can only do so much for a hitter. North Lawndale Marlins coach Frank Brim



Alex Rodriguez

pointed out that steroids can “help you hit the ball out of the ballpark, but they can’t help you hit the ball.” Other major baseball milestones were reached recently by New York Yankees Alex Rodriguez who hit the 500<sup>th</sup> home run of his career. Rodriguez is the youngest player to reach the 500 home-run plateau, and he joins only 22 other players who have accomplished the feat. Pitching ace Tom Glavine, of the Atlanta Braves also etched his name into the baseball

record books when he won the 300<sup>th</sup> game of his 20-year career against none other than the Chicago Cubs on Aug 5. The 41-year old Glavine is just the 5<sup>th</sup> left handed-pitcher to reach 300 wins for their career. The NFL also saw names etched into the history books – inducting six more football legends into the Hall of Fame. Inductees included Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin, Buffalo Bills running back Thurman Thomas, Detroit Lions tight end Charlie Sanders, Detroit Lions offensive lineman Clay Mathews, Cleveland Browns offensive lineman Gene Heckerson, and cornerback Roger Wehrli of the St. Louis Cardinals. The Bears have started practice for the 2007-2008 season as they attempt to rebound from the disappointing Super Bowl loss to the Indianapolis Colts. The team has remained in tact for the most part, the most, the most notable absences are running back Thomas Jones and Cliff Harris, who were both traded. The spotlight will surely be on Cedric Benson, who’ll finally get his chance to be the featured running back, as well as Rex Grossman, who needs to show that he can play better than he did last year. If the 40,000 people who recently turned up at a public practice at soldier Field are any indication, they’ll receive a lot of support as they try work their way toward a quality season. Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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corner started to walk away, police proceeded out of their vehicle she stopped and raised her hands while telling the others not to run. She said most borthers’ run out of fear that the police would put drugs on them and arrest them. She stated that Harrison then began run. Later she heard a gunshot. Christian Valley Church, where Rev. Steve and Karla Greer are the Pastors will hold a rally on Thursday at 11:30am. Another rally is being planned where family members are hoping Rev. Al Sharpton will be in attendance on Friday.



Family members placing memorial where 18 yr. old Aaron Harrison was shot and killed by a police officer. Behind is building and back porch where six residents witnessed the shooting.



Aaron Harrison in younger years

**Taste of North Lawndale**  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 312/492-9090

Expo from page 6

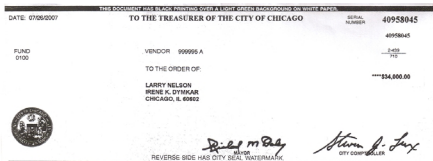
Schaumburg office said WaMu came into “regular neighborhoods,” because that is where the small businesses were developing. “There is no reason to come into communities where businesses have already flourished,” he said. The Hechtman Financial Management Taxation and Accounting Services Group, stressed the need to get good accounting and tax help. Their brochure takes the business owner through everything he needs to know about keeping good records because many prospective business owners don’t know that they should keep copies of tax returns for at least three years, and when in doubt consult an accountant. There were also small business groups among the exhibitors. One such group was the African Mexican Women Enterprise (AMWE) Inc. who has their own vending machine company. AMWE will come out to any business and install their compact 2 vending machines. They represent the need for more women and minorities to own their

own businesses. The treasurer’s office in partnership with the City Colleges of Chicago has developed a financial literacy program entitled “Our Money Matters: the ABC’s of Personal Finance. Topics include basic banking, electronic banking, basic investments, and debt management because a third of Chicago households lack any form of a banking relationship which prevent them from financing major purchases. The Illinois small business development center at Jane Addams Hull House has classes scheduled through December on the North and Southside on starting up small businesses and the cost is free. For more information go to: www.hullhouse.org. For additional information on any of the city treasurer’s program visit www.chicagocitytreasurer.com. Mary Moran is a writer for NLCN. Mary is a veteran of the U. S. Army and journalism graduate from Columbia College in Chicago. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Kells from page 11

would have a serious problem trying to figure how I would’ve reacted if I’d seen him on a video with my under-aged daughter. I’m sure it would still be headlines today. What are headlines after five years? Judge Vincent Gaughan has finally set a trial date for Kelly, which is Sept. 17. This after defense lawyers have filed anywhere from 25 to 30 motions delaying the case to go along with those filed by the prosecution. And don’t forget the hero worshippers. They will be there too. They’ll be lined up with signs proclaiming Kelly’s innocence both inside and outside the facilities at 26th Street and California Avenue. I say to those that truly believe Kelly is a hero: “Someone obviously didn’t read Webster’s definition of a hero. If they did, they wouldn’t be making a complete dummy (I’ve got other words) of themselves. If R. Kelly is your hero, you are in serious trouble.” Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXXM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at beckless@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Misconduct from page 7



\$34,000 dollar check issued to Larry Nelson as settlement for police misconduct. Nelson stated, I don’t use drugs, never have. Nelson, also doesn’t have a police record. The police report had three gun charges for the same gun. Police said that he parked his car jumped out and ran upstairs. The officer then said that Nelson buzzed him upstairs. With the police report, and two officer testimonies, Nelson had a gun out of his car, the gun out of his hallway, and one out of his apartment. The conclusion is that Larry was found innocent in by three Judges. One was an in administrative hearing court judge, a civil judge, and a federal court judge. After winning his criminal case, Nelson started the lawsuit process finding a Lawyer who would take the case which he found Irene K. Kymkar, after several lawyers would not take the case or believe he could win. Nelson criminal court attorney was Michael Faye. Asked what does Larry Nelson plan to do with his money. He stated that he plans to help finance his campaign to run for 24th Ward committeeman. Currently as of the official date to register, petitions August 7th. and this newspapers’ deadline, he is the only candidate registered for this position, so far.

**A HAND UP RECOVERY HOMES**  
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**WHERE: HOMAN SQUARE EXTENSION PARK 13<sup>TH</sup> PLACE & ST. LOUIS STREET**  
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Malcolm X College invites the community to **Summer Sizzle** festivities from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. The events are geared to showcase the College’s amenities and increase awareness regarding the affordability and benefits of a community college education. All events are free, open to the public, and will be held at the College. **Jazz Under the Stars** will be held 6:00 p.m. every Wednesday in August. The concert series will showcase a variety of performers. Registration for College Credit, Adult Education, and Continuing Education classes will be on-going. Additionally, the **24-Hour Registration Block Party** will begin 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The public will enjoy live bands, dancing, games, and round the clock registration. For more info contact : (312) 850 – 7055 (Registration) (312) 850 – 7049 (Jazz Under the Stars)



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**Help Wanted!** Freelance journalist to write a weekly book review for the North Lawndale Community News. Previous writing experience is required. Experience as a book reviewer is preferred but not necessary. Call (312) 492-9090.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

You Are Invited to attend a **FREE Home Repair Forum**. **When:** Saturday, August 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Where:** The Leglar Public Library Auditorium on 115 S. Pulaski. **Highlights:** Refreshments, Raffle and Forum. This event is sponsored by the Department of Consumer Services, Alderman Ed Smith, 28<sup>th</sup> Ward and Leglar Public Library. For more information visit [www.cityofchicago.org/consumerservices](http://www.cityofchicago.org/consumerservices).

**Opening the Door to Power!** You are cordially invited to meet Sabrena L. Davis, Founding Principle of Henry Ford Power House Charter High School. **When:** Thursday, August 16 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Where:** Homan Square Community Center located at 3517 West Arthington. Please RSVP by August 9 to Willie Cole at (773) 826-0814.

**There's no place like YOUR home!** This summer, high school exchange students from around the world will arrive in the Chicago area. They will arrive in August, live with a family while attending a local high school, and return home in late June or early July. If you are able to host an AFS Exchange Student, contact Murray Johnson at (773) 354-2220.

**Free College-Level Courses for low income adults!** Classes available this fall through the Odyssey Project of the Illinois Humanities Council. They will begin in mid-September, and will be held at Donoghue School, located at 707 E. 37<sup>th</sup> and at the Howard Area Community Center, located at 7648 N. Paulina. For more info call (312) 422-5585 ext. 223 for the South Side courses, and (773) 995-8411 for the North Side courses.

**Viva Chicago Latin Music Fest** Brings the Sizzle to the Summer! **When:** Saturday, August 25-26 from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. **Where:** Grant Park. **Features:** dozens of superstars performing the distinctive types of Latin music like cumbia, reggaeton, salsa, meringue, tango, bachata, banda and Spanish Pop. For more information call (312) 744-3370

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHICAGO'S CITY PARK DISTRICT ANNOUNCES MOVIES IN THE PARKS** where more than 150 current and classic movies will be shown in neighborhood parks from June through September. **Douglass Park**, located at 1401 S. Sacramento Ave., will be showing *Charlottes Web* on Aug 17. **The Garfield Park Conservatory**, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave., will be showing *Casino Royal* on August 30, and *The Pursuit of Happyness* on September 6. **Franklin Park**, located at 4320 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., will be showing *Happy Feet* on August 12. For a complete schedule of the Park movie dates and times go to [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

**THE WILLIE WILLIAMS III YOUTH FOUNDATION IS HOSTING 3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS.** Dates and Times: August 11 and 12 on the West Side at Orr High School, August 25 at Union Park, August 31 and September 1 on the North Side at Seward Park, September 15 and 16 on the Northwest Side at Union Park. For more information call (773) 252-5965 or go to [Williewmsyouth.fdn.com](http://Williewmsyouth.fdn.com).

**NATIONAL CITY ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARD** to Honor Excellence in Children's Programming and Services. The final, statewide honoree will receive a \$10,000 grant. Nominations are being accepted through August 17. For more information contact Voices for Illinois Children at (312) 456-0600 or visit [NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion](http://NationalCity.com/ChildrensChampion).

**The Chicago Air and Water Show** will shake up the lakefront on August 18 and 19. It is the largest FREE show of its kind, and will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. The show will feature the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Parachute Team Golden Knights, the Shell Extreme Water Show, and a civilian lineup. For more information contact Mary May at 312-744-0576 or Cindy Gatzolis at 312-744-0573.

**NIKE Calls on Chicago's Best Ballers** for inaugural "Ball For Fall" 3-on-3 tournament. **When:** Saturday August 11 and Sunday August 12. **Where:** Seward Park located at 375 W. Elm St. (corner of Division & North Orleans), Chicago, IL 60610. **Transit:** El- Red Line to Clark/Division and walk two blocks west. Bus-11 Lincoln/Sedgwick 70 Division. **Highlights:** 3-on-3 tournament, slam dunk contest, skills clinics and Q&A with athletes. For more information contact Laura Zobrist at 312-803-8221 and Paul Jackiewicz at 312-931-2812.

**Chicago Community Organizations, Developers, and Architects** Encouraged to Apply for Top Awards in community Development. The CNDA awards include: The Chicago Community Trust Outstanding Community Initiative of the Year with a \$20,000 grant, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project with a cash prize of \$15,000, The Outstanding For-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project Award, and a Special Recognition Award with a \$5,000 prize. Applications are due September 12. For more information call 312-697-6150

**Calling artists for 3 up coming art shows:** 1. Chicago African American artists submit by Sept.22. 2. CHA building residents submit by Oct. 27. 3. HIV/AIDS affected people submit by Nov. 24. Please send images by email to: [sophiebella@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sophiebella@sbcglobal.net) or mail to Liz Long Gallery at 1957 S.Spaulding Ave. Chicago, IL 60623. 773-542-9126. [www.urbanartretreat.com](http://www.urbanartretreat.com).

### Roundup from page 6

In a nearby and apparently unrelated shooting on Aug. 2, a 27-year-old shooting victim told police he been engaged in an altercation with female individuals over a criminal damage to vehicle incident when he was shot just after 3 a.m. Aug. 2.

The shooting occurred in the 5000 block of West Huron.

The unidentified victim was rushed to Loyola Hospital and

### LEGAL NOTICES

**STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK**, Estate of Deandre M. Washington. The Case Number is 07 P 3193. Notice is hereby given you, Michael Sewer, that a Petition has been filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County by April Lucas, praying that he be appointed successor guardian on the above named minor. A hearing on said Petition will be held before the Honorable Judge, Dorothy Brown on September 18, 2007, at 10 a.m., In Room 1806, in the Richard J. Daley Center.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D07108228 on July 18, 2007. Under the Assumed Name of Wrap Braids with the business located at 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL 60622. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) is: Frances Simmons, 839 N. Sacramento, Chicago, IL.

Medical Center in Maywood where he was listed in stable condition while being treated for a single gunshot wound to his right shoulder. He was shot after returning to the scene of the previous argument.

Area 5 Violent Crimes investigators were without an arrest or motive as press time.

*Ferman is a former columnist for the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Metro News. He has also written for Chicago Athlete Magazine, Windy City Word and The Rockford Chronicle. His column has been syndicated by five different radio stations: WMPP, WWCA, WWYCA, WSSD and WXFM. He is the founder of the Reckless Beckless Foundation, offering scholarships to student athletes in the Chicago Area. Ferman currently writes for the North Lawndale Community News. You can reach Ferman Beckless at [beckless@yahoo.com](mailto:beckless@yahoo.com). To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*

### CPS from page 13

paying attention to what's going on. "This is important to know what's going on and I hope that everything goes according to plan. We need these programs and after school job training programs to make sure that we become better as people and better a students," said Victoria Graham, senior at AASTA (Orr). "I hope people in the state capital realize the importance of getting students the best CPS experience possible."

NLCN will continue to cover Chicago Public Schools in the coming weeks.

*James Glover is a North Lawndale resident and an NLCN general assignment reporter. He is also involved in nonprofit work and community organizing. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*


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### Scholarship from page 8

awarded will not go to waste.

I'm determined to go to school and to work towards being valedictorian for the Western Illinois graduating class of 2011. I'm so grateful for everything that God is continuing to bless me with. It is not everyday that an African America graduates from high school, let alone attend college. I've realized that I need an education in order to pursue a successful life. There is no excuse for me not to attend college. I desire and value my education.

I have financial support, but most importantly I have family support. I don't come from a wealthy family, but when one is highly favored, money isn't an issue. Thanks to parents, aunts, uncles, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Youth have the financial support they need to attend college.

*Jasmine Q. Stuart is a NLCN intern. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).*





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